

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1454

By Briley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Roy Orbison on the occasion of what would have been his 70th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor the cultural contributions of those gifted citizens who, through their inherent musical talents and extraordinary efforts, distinguished themselves as singers and songwriters whose musical legacy will be forever treasured; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable Tennessean was the late Roy Orbison, a gentleman who was passionately dedicated to his music, his community, and his family; and

WHEREAS, Roy Orbison was present at the birth of rock and roll with Buddy Holly in Texas and then in Memphis with fellow Sun Records pioneers Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash; Roy had his first hit with *Ooby Dooby* in June of 1956; and

WHEREAS, Elvis Presley repeatedly said, "Roy Orbison is the greatest singer in the world."; and

WHEREAS, when Roy moved to Nashville, his career truly exploded; starting in 1960, with *Only the Lonely*, recorded at Studio B on Music Row, he began one of the most amazing strings of success in recording history, writing and singing some of the greatest songs ever recorded, including *Crying*, *Running Scared*, *Blue Bayou*, *It's Over*, *Blue Angel*, *In Dreams*, *Mean Woman Blues*, *Candyman*, and the rock and roll masterpiece *Oh Pretty Woman*; and

WHEREAS, Roy Orbison lived in Tennessee for the majority of his life; he reached his creative peak here and, perhaps more importantly to him, he raised his family in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Orbison has touched the lives of people all over the world for six decades; Roy was one of the very few artists of his time that was still on top when he passed

away in 1988; such artists as Barry Gibb, Bruce Springsteen, John Lennon, Bono of U2, Bob Dylan, Robert Plant, Paul McCartney, Bonnie Raitt, and many more cite Roy's influence as a songwriter, musician, and artist; and

WHEREAS, the Beatles opened for Roy Orbison on his European tour in 1963, he toured with the Rolling Stones and later with the Eagles, John Lennon often spoke about the Beatles mimicking his songwriting style in their early years, and thousands of others have covered Roy's songs, including Van Halen, Linda Ronstadt, Al Green, The Everly Brothers, Johnny Cash, Led Zeppelin, Count Basie, Dwight Yoakam, Buddy Holly, John Mellencamp, Kitty Wells, Chris Isaak, Waylon Jennings, and Glen Campbell; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his passing, Roy Orbison was on the charts with two multi-million-selling albums: his solo album *Mystery Girl* and his album with the group *The Traveling Wilburys*, whose members included George Harrison, Tom Petty, Bob Dylan, and Jeff Lynne; and

WHEREAS, although he passed away in 1988, Roy Orbison is as popular today as he was in the 1960s. Indeed, Roy wrote the soundtrack to many people's lives, winning a total of six Grammy Awards, including the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, and he is a member of both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Roy Orbison would have turned 70 years old in this calendar year, 2006, and we support the initiatives to recognize his cultural and artistic achievements, including our nation's Postal Service issuance of a commemorative stamp in his honor; and

WHEREAS, men of Roy Orbison's talent and stature seldom walk among us, and it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this remarkable Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Roy Orbison on the occasion of what would have been his 70th birthday, remembering with admiration his exemplary character, his enormous talent, and his many selfless contributions to the state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.